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BOROUGH OF HIGH WYCOMBE



ANNUAL REPORT

on the work of the

Public Health Services

1957



A. J. MUIR, M.B., B.Hy., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health

R. F. SHAPTER, M.A.P.H.I.

Chief Public Health Inspector



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MR. A. G. HALL.

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of High Wycombe

I have pleasure in submitting my 14th annual report on the Borough Health Services.

The estimated population in mid-1957 was 44,230, which was 870 above the figure for the preceding year. There was an excess of births over deaths which accounted for 342 of this difference, the rest being attributed to inward migration.

There were 781 live births, this representing an increase of 102 on the previous year's figure, and resulted in an increase from 15.7 to 17.17 per thousand in the birth rate.

Unfortunately there was a steep increase in the number of infant deaths, there being 21 compared with 10 the previous year, and the infantile mortality rate 26.9 for the first time in many years exceeded the figure for England and Wales. Examination of the causes of death as given in the death certificates revealed that the great majority of the deaths could not be prevented and were mostly due to congenital defects or to prematurity.

There were 439 deaths—an increase of 26 on the previous year ; as usual diseases of the heart and circulation caused most, 135 or roughly 30% of the total. There were 106, deaths or approximately 25% of all deaths, from cancer, no less than 28 of which were due to cancer of the lung—all except 2 were in respect of males. Cancer of the lungs is not a disease of old age—in fact only two of the deaths were of persons over 70 years. The average age of the 28 who died was 58 years, so that this disease is killing off men who ought to have many years of useful work in front of them.

There has been a lot of controversy whether smoking, particularly cigarette smoking, causes lung cancer and if it is the only cause. Of course there may be different factors operating to produce the rise in incidence of this disease, but however one looks at the evidence there is no doubt that smokers are much more likely than non-smokers to contract the disease, and the statement made by one authority is that a heavy smoker is thirty times more likely than a non-smoker to contract it.

During the latter part of the year there was the much-heralded epidemic of Asian Influenza which fortunately proved to be a mild variety although three deaths were attributed to it. The population had been expecting a more virulent form of the disease, but luckily their expectations were not realised.

There were two cases of poliomyelitis, five of scarlet fever and none of diphtheria and it is now over ten years since there was a case of the latter, but that should not deter us from carrying on with

our protective measures because there is no guarantee that this disease will not return in a virulent form.

In September 1957 the Ministry of Health extended the age range for vaccination against poliomyelitis so that all children under 15 years of age could be registered. At the end of the year supplies of vaccine were so woefully deficient that there were long waiting lists building up, but the year ended on a hopeful note with the promise of more vaccine in 1958, but more about that in next year's report !

I cannot end this preface without acknowledging the efforts of the Chief Public Health Inspector with slum clearance particularly, which, as the Council well knows, is a problem of great magnitude.

To the Council I give thanks for their encouragement during the year and to my brother officials and staff who have so freely given their advice and assistance a special meed of gratitude is due.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

A. J. MUIR,

Medical Officer of Health.

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

HEALTH CENTRE,
HIGH WYCOMBE,
September, 1958.

SECTION I

Statistics :

Area	.....	7,091 acres
Population (Registrar General's estimate)	....	44,230
Number of dwelling-houses	....	13,566
Rateable value as at 1/4/57	....	£751,588
Product of a Penny rate (Actual 1956/57)	....	£3,287

Rainfall :

Pann Mill, Easton Street	....	26.72 ins.
Widdenton Park, Lane End	....	28.23 ins.

Summary of Vital Statistics :

Live Births :	Total	M.	F.	
Legitimate	757	386	371	Birth Rate per 1,000 of the
Illegitimate	24	15	9	estimated resident population
	—	—	—	—17.7.
Total Births	781	401	380	Adjusted Rate 17.17.
	—	—	—	
Still Births	24	11	13	Rate per 1,000 total (live and
Deaths	439	249	190	still) births—30.73.
				Death Rate per 1,000 of the
				estimated resident population
				—9.9.
				Adjusted Death Rate—11.38.

Deaths from Puerperal Causes :	Death Rate per 1,000
	Deaths total (live and still) births
Puerperal Sepsis	Nil Nil
Other Puerperal Causes	Nil Nil

Deaths of Infants under One Year of Age :

Total number of deaths	.....	21
Death rate for all infants per 1,000 live births	....	26.9
Number of legitimate infant deaths	....	20
Legitimate death rate per 1,000 legitimate live births		26.42
No. of illegitimate infant deaths	....	1
Illegitimate death rate per 1,000 illegitimate live births		41.66

Neo-natal death rate :

Number of deaths of children under 4 weeks (10 Males, 4 Females)	14
Rate per 1,000 live births	17.9

Deaths (all ages) :

Deaths from Cancer	106
Measles	Nil
Whooping Cough	Nil
Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	1
Total Tuberculosis Deaths (all cases)	5
Tuberculosis Death Rate (all cases)	0.11
Total Deaths—Respiratory Tuberculosis	5
Respiratory Tuberculosis Death Rate	0.11
Total Deaths—Non-Respiratory Tuberculosis	Nil
Non-Respiratory Tuberculosis Death Rate	Nil
Total Deaths—Respiratory (excluding Tuberculosis)	61
Respiratory Death Rate (excluding Tuberculosis)	1.38

Infantile Mortality :

The following table gives the infantile mortality rate per 1,000 live births for High Wycombe and England & Wales for the last ten years :—

	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957
England & Wales	34	32	29.8	29.6	27.6	26.8	25.5	24.9	23.8	23.0
High Wycombe	20.62	25.28	24.27	25.20	15.13	12.12	17.8	11.5	14.7	26.9

Infantile Mortality :

Twenty-one infants under the age of twelve months died during 1957, giving an infantile mortality rate of 26.9 per 1,000 live births.

The rate for 1957 was the highest recorded since 1947 and was in fact above the figure for England and Wales—this had not happened before in the last twenty years.

Fourteen of the deaths occurred in the first four weeks and the causes are given below :—

Extreme prematurity or prematurity	9
Birth injury	1
Atelectasis (non-expansion of lungs)	2
Congenital Heart Disease	2

Of the deaths between 4 weeks and 52 weeks the following were given :—

Inhalation of vomit. Asphyxia	....	....	1
Congenital heart disease	....	....	2
Hydrocephalus with heart disease	....	....	1
Gastro enteritis	....	....	1
Intussusception	....	....	1
Hydrocephalic with meningocele	....	....	1

With one or two possible exceptions none of the causes offers much scope for prevention, the vast majority being developmental in origin or associated with prematurity.

CAUSES OF DEATH					1957		1956	
					M.	F.	M.	F.
1	Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	....			5	—	1	2
2	Other forms of Tuberculosis	....	....		—	—	—	—
3	Syphilitic Disease	....	....	....	—	—	—	—
4	Diphtheria	....	....	....	—	—	—	—
5	Whooping Cough	....	....	....	—	—	—	—
6	Meningococcal Infections	....	....		—	1	—	1
7	Acute Poliomyelitis	....	....	....	—	—	—	—
8	Measles	....	....	....	—	—	—	—
9	Other Infective and parasitic diseases	....			1	—	—	1
10	Malignant Neoplasm, stomach	....			11	7	7	7
11	Malignant Neoplasm, lung, bronchus	....			26	2	20	—
12	Malignant Neoplasm, breast	....	....		—	3	—	8
13	Malignant Neoplasm, uterus	....	....		—	6	—	5
14	Other Malignant and lymphatic Neoplasms	....	....	....	31	20	22	15
15	Leukaemia, aleukaemia	....	....	....	3	—	1	1
16	Diabetes	....	....	....	—	5	—	—
17	Vascular lesions of Nervous System	....			11	25	27	36
18	Coronary Disease, angina	....	....		54	20	40	28
19	Hypertension with Heart Disease	....			3	6	4	7
20	Other Heart Disease	....	....	....	16	35	22	25
21	Other Circulatory Disease	....	....		6	10	8	10
22	Influenza	....	....	....	3	3	1	2
23	Pneumonia	....	....	....	15	14	9	—
24	Bronchitis	....	....	....	13	9	21	7
25	Other Diseases of Respiratory System				3	1	3	1

		1957		1956	
		M.	F.	M.	F.
26	Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	6	—	2	—
27	Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	1	—	2	2
28	Nephritis and Nephrosis	1	1	3	2
29	Hyperplasia of Prostate	4	—	9	—
30	Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion	—	—	—	—
31	Congenital Malformation	4	2	3	1
32	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	20	15	11	19
33	Motor Vehicle Accidents	4	1	6	2
34	All other Accidents	4	3	5	2
35	Suicide	4	1	1	1
36	Homicide and Operations of War	—	—	—	—
Totals		249	190	228	185

SECTION II

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES

Hospitals

The High Wycombe War Memorial Hospital is situated in the town. This is a general hospital of 100 beds with an annexe at Booker which has Geriatric, Ear, Nose and Throat, and convalescent units comprising 46 beds. The Shrubbery Maternity Home of 20 beds is also in the Borough.

Infectious disease cases now go to Aylesbury Isolation Hospital or to the Isolation Hospitals at Maidenhead or Reading.

Professional Nursing in the Home

This is undertaken by the nurses stationed at the Grange, Amersham Hill—two of whom are engaged on general nursing work and three on midwifery. The Home Nursing Service is the responsibility of the County Council.

Ambulance Facilities

The ambulance station is in West End Street and the surrounding district is served by it. Considerable help is given by the local branch of the St. John Ambulance Brigade and all the ambulances are under radio control.

SECTION III

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE SERVICES

Clinics and Treatment Centres

(a) Administered by the Bucks County Council.

Women's Advisory Clinic	Municipal Health Centre. Mondays, 2—4 p.m.
Infant Welfare Centres	Municipal Health Centre, Dyke Meadow, Tuesdays and Fridays, 2—4 p.m. Sands Village Hall, Sands, 2nd and 4th Tuesdays, 2—4 p.m. Methodist Schoolroom, West Wycombe, 2nd and 4th Wednesdays, 2—4 p.m. Turner's Sports Pavilion, Totteridge, Thursdays, 2—4 p.m. St. Anne's Church Hall, Wycombe Marsh, Thursdays, 2—4 p.m. Methodist Church Hall, Rutland Avenue, Tuesdays, 2—4 p.m.
Mothercraft and Relaxation Classes	Municipal Health Centre, Mondays, Wednesdays, 2—4.40 p.m.
Dental Clinic	Nursing and Expectant Mothers and Children under school age, 51 Priory Road.

(b) Administered by the Regional Hospital Board.

Ante-Natal and Post-Natal Clinic	War Memorial Hospital, Tuesdays and Wednesdays, 10—11 a.m.
Tuberculosis Clinic	War Memorial Hospital, Mondays, 9.30 a.m., Contacts ; Tuesdays, 9.30 a.m., New Cases ; Wednesdays, 9.30 a.m., Refills ; Fridays, 9.30 a.m. Old Cases.
Venereal Diseases Clinic	49a Frogmoor, Mondays, 2—7 p.m., Thursdays, 4—7 p.m. Dr. Korn is in attendance.

Laboratory Facilities

Facilities are provided by the Emergency Public Health Laboratory Service at Oxford.

SECTION IV

PREVALANCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE

(a) Notifiable Diseases

The table on the following page gives the number of cases during the year.

[illegible]

(b) Immunisation against Diphtheria and Whooping Cough

At the end of 1957 the use of combined reagents was discontinued and that of single prophylactics was instituted. Although combined vaccines are much more advantageous in so far as the number of injections required is reduced it was felt that the added risk—admittedly slight—of provoking poliomyelitis was not justified. This has caused a great increase in the number of injections required.

In 1957 638 children completed the primary course of diphtheria immunisation and 872 had boosting doses.

614 children were immunised against whooping cough.

(c) Immunisation against Tetanus

At the end of the year provision was made at the Welfare Centre for parents to have their children immunised against Tetanus. This is an important innovation, especially in rural areas, as tetanus causes in a year far more deaths than does diphtheria nowadays.

(d) Vaccination against Smallpox

During the year 583 primary vaccinations and 55 revaccinations were carried out.

(e) B.C.G. Vaccination (Tuberculosis)

During 1957 the scheme for vaccinating 13-year-old school children was continued.

All children in the group, whether attending local authority or private schools, were given the chance to participate, and after preliminary tuberculin testing the non-reactors were vaccinated. The acceptance rate was over 80%.

It is hoped that by the vaccination of these young people the incidence of tuberculosis in young adults will be reduced.

(f) Tuberculosis

There were five deaths from tuberculosis compared with three the previous year. The position generally is much better than it was some years ago and there are now no long waiting lists for sanatoria.

(g) Vaccination against Poliomyelitis

The programme which was begun in 1956 was extended in Autumn to include all children born 1943 and later provided they were over the age of six months. American Vaccine was imported to augment the supplies manufactured in this country. The demand far exceeded the supply and at the end of the year there was a huge waiting list for vaccination.

Deaths from Tuberculosis

Year	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951
No. of Deaths	22	15	15	9	7	6
Year	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957
No. of Deaths	7	6	5	2	3	5

(h) Isolation Hospital

All cases of infectious disease needing hospital treatment are sent to Aylesbury, Reading or Maidenhead.

SECTION V

Tuberculosis

The tuberculosis service is administered by the Regional Hospital Board. The following table gives at a glance the position regarding tuberculosis in High Wycombe during 1957.

	Respiratory			Non-respiratory			Grand Totals
	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total	
No. on Register on 1st January, 1957	145	111	256	26	15	41	297
No. first notified during 1957	19	8	27	1	2	3	30
No. of cases entered in Register other than by notification	9	6	15	1	2	3	18
No. removed from Register during 1957 :—							
(a) Died	7	1	8	—	1	1	9
(b) Removed from District	8	17	25	5	4	9	34
(c) De-notified	7	2	9	1	2	3	12
No. remaining on Register 31/12/57	151	105	256	22	12	34	290

The number of new cases and the number of deaths of persons on Register (either from tuberculosis or other causes) notified during 1957 are given in full detail in the following table :—

Age Period				New Cases				Deaths			
				Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
				M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0—1	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—5	...	...	...	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
5—10	...	...	...	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
10—15	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—20	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
20—25	...	...	...	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25—35	...	...	...	4	3	—	—	—	—	—	—
35—45	...	...	...	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45—55	...	...	...	7	1	1	1	3	—	—	—
55—65	...	...	...	1	—	—	—	3	—	—	—
65 and over	...	...	...	1	2	—	—	1	1	—	1
Totals	...	...	...	19	8	1	2	7	1	—	1

SECTION VI

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948. Section 47

No formal action required.

ANNUAL REPORT
of the
CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR
for the year 1957

TO THE MAYOR, ALDERMEN,
AND
COUNCILLORS OF THE BOROUGH OF HIGH WYCOMBE

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

In accordance with changes which have taken place in the wording of Acts and Orders in recent years, the words “sanitary circumstances” and “sanitary conditions” have lost their place in Annual Reports, and the large amount of work which was reported under paragraph headings such as “Nuisances,” “Vermin,” “Infectious Diseases” and “Drainage” have been replaced by work on “Food Hygiene,” “Prevention of Damage by Pests,” “Educational Activities” and “Clean Air,” etc.

One must remember, however, that the department is always in readiness to deal with epidemics of infectious disease—now fortunately rare. It still investigates and acts on complaints arising out of failure to maintain in one direction or another modern standards of environmental hygiene.

With a completed staff for almost a whole year, naturally the work carried out increased, and whilst figures by themselves cannot show all that is done within the department they will prove that much progress has been made. This has been possible, of course, by the continued loyal support of my staff and the co-operation of the members of other departments, to whom my thanks are due.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

R. F. SHAPTER,
Chief Public Health Inspector.

Acts administered or partly administered by the department

Housing Acts, 1930–1957 (Unhealthy Areas, Unfit Houses—demolition, repair, etc.).
 Public Health Act, 1936.
 Rent Act, 1957.
 Buckinghamshire County Council Act, 1957 (Sections 50, 51 and 52).
 Food and Drugs Act, 1955.
 Clean Air Act, 1956.
 Slaughter of Animals Acts, 1933–54.
 Merchandise Marks Act, 1926.
 Rag Flock Act, 1951.
 Shops Act, 1950.
 Explosives Acts, 1875–1923.
 Chepping Wycombe Corporation Act, 1927. Part VII and Sections 101, 102, 104, 105 and 106.
 High Wycombe Corporation Act, 1946. Part V.
 National Assistance Act, 1948. Sections 47 and 50.
 Pet Animals Act, 1951.
 Heating Appliances (Fireguards) Act, 1952.
 Factories Act, 1937.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT

Infectious Diseases

The amount of work on disinfection has been little, as the following figures will show.

(a) Rooms disinfected	....	....	....	....	19
(b) Bedding disinfected	....	....	....	....	Nil
(c) Bedding destroyed	....	....	....	....	19 articles
(d) Library books	....	....	....	....	129

Disinfestation

Eradication of vermin :

(a) Number of Council houses treated	....	6
(b) Number of private houses treated	....	2

WATER SUPPLY

(a) Public Supply

Samples of water from the Public Supply were submitted regularly for examination and the results showed it to be of very good quality.

Twenty-three samples were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory, Oxford, for bacteriological examination with satisfactory results.

Four samples of untreated water from the Public Supply wells were submitted for chemical and bacteriological examination and the results showed these to be of a very good quality.

(b) Private Supply

Eight samples of water from private supplies were submitted for bacteriological examination and four samples for bacteriological and chemical examination, all with satisfactory results.

(c) Statistics

	<i>No. of Houses piped supply</i>	<i>No. of Houses by standpipe</i>	<i>Estimated population</i>
Borough of High Wycombe	14,475	8	44,230
Supplied by Corporation works to places outside the Borough	1,407	20	6,000

MUNICIPAL SWIMMING POOL

Sixteen samples of water from the Swimming Pool were submitted for bacteriological examination. All gave satisfactory results.

MILK SUPPLY

The milk supply continues to be very satisfactory. Almost all the milk supplied within the Borough is from three large establishments, two of which have pasteurising plants under the control of this department. Only 0.3% of the samples taken failed the tests and these failures were not of a serious nature.

Licences granted

Pasteurisers' licences	....	....	....	....	2
Dealers' Pasteurised licences	....	....	....	....	13
Dealers' Sterilised licences	....	....	....	....	30
Dealers' Tuberculin Tested licences	....	....	....	....	14
Supplementary Tuberculin Tested licences	....	....	....	....	3
Supplementary Pasteurised licences	....	....	....	....	4

Registration of Dairy Premises—Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949-1954

There are two dairies in the town—both having pasteurisation licences—and forty-eight distributors.

		<i>No. of Samples taken</i>	<i>Results</i>	
			<i>Satisfactory</i>	<i>Unsatisfactory</i>
Pasteurised	....	146	145	1
T.T. Pasteurised	....	119	119	—
Sterilised	....	20	20	—
		—	—	—
		285	284	1
		—	—	—

FOOD CONDEMNATIONS (other than meat at slaughter-houses)

(a) Amongst numerous articles of food condemned were the following :—

Cheese	...	...	22 lbs.	Meat	...	...	140 tins
Fish	...	...	13 stone	Milk	...	...	27 tins
Fish	...	...	28 tins	Sausages	...	...	42 lbs.
Fruit	...	...	275 tins	Tomatoes	...	...	314 tins
Ham	...	...	310 lbs.	Vegetables	...	...	157 tins
Meat	...	...	1,874 lbs.				

Condemned food is taken to the Corporation's tip and the burying of each consignment is supervised by a member of the department.

In no case was it necessary to examine a total stock or a consignment of goods.

FOOD SAMPLING

(b) The following table sets out details of the samples taken and submitted to the Public Analyst.

	How Sampled		Result	
	Formal	Informal	Genuine	Not Genuine
Beverages	1	7	8	—
Butter	4	—	4	—
Buttered Rolls	—	2	2	—
Cake	—	1	1	—
Canned Meats	1	7	8	—
Cheese	1	1	2	—
Christmas Pudding	2	—	2	—
Cornflour	—	3	3	—
Cream	1	4	5	—
Flavourings	1	—	1	—
Fruit Drinks and Concentrates	2	4	6	—
Gravy Browning	—	1	1	—
Ground Almonds	—	1	1	—
Herbs and Spices	—	8	8	—
Ice Cream	—	9	9	—
Iced Lollies	—	12	12	—
Jelly	2	1	3	—
Lard	2	—	2	—
Margarine	2	—	2	—
Marzipan	2	2	4	—
Milk	2	—	—	2
Mixed Peel	2	—	2	—
Pickle	—	2	2	—
Preserves	3	2	5	—
Proprietary Medicines	1	12	13	—
Pudding Mixture	2	3	5	—
Salad Cream	3	—	3	—
Sandwich Fillings	—	4	4	—
Sausages (beef)	10	—	10	—
Sausages (pork)	2	—	2	—
Sausage (vegetable)	—	1	1	—
Soup	—	2	2	—
Suet	1	—	1	—
Sweets and Chocolate	1	6	6	1
Vinegar	1	—	1	—
Wines and Spirits	6	4	10	—
Totals	55	99	151	3

Laboratory Milk Testing

Qualitative analysis was carried out in the department's laboratory on 73 informal samples of milk ; of these 18 were on Channel Island milk and the average fat contents were as follows :—

Channel Island milk	....	....	....	....	4.4%
Other milk	....	....	....	....	3.8%
All milk	....	....	....	....	4.0%

The average solids not fat content was 8.82%.

Food and Drugs Act, Section 16 (2)

Ice Cream

During the year thirteen registrations were granted for the storage of Ice Cream intended for sale and for the sale of Ice Cream. There are now 157 registered Ice Cream premises within the Borough. Two registrations relate to the manufacture of Ice Cream. In both cases "complete cold mix" powders are used.

Fifteen samples of Ice Cream were submitted for bacteriological examination and the results were as follows :—

Provisional Grade 1	....	....	....	....	5 samples
Provisional Grade 2	....	....	....	....	9 "
Provisional Grade 3	....	....	....	....	Nil
Provisional Grade 4	....	....	....	....	1 sample

This is a definite and pleasing improvement on the results of last year when 35% of samples fell into Grades 3 and 4.

Other Premises

There are 51 other registered food preparing premises within the Borough, mainly fried fish shops and sausage manufacturing. No established bacteriological sampling is in force for the products prepared at these establishments.

FOOD HYGIENE

The inspection of food premises under the Food Hygiene Regulations continued during the year and 448 inspections were made. Fifty-eight notices were served requiring works to be carried out in order to make premises comply with the Regulations. The market stalls were regularly inspected but no serious breach of the Regulations was found.

No doubt much more improvement is required to bring all premises to the standard of hygiene which is necessary and it should not be necessary in these times for food handlers to be reminded to wash their hands after using a toilet. It is very surprising that there should be cases where occupiers of food premises have to be forced to provide readily accessible toilet facilities.

Equally surprising is the fact that many members of the public will pay extra to have certain commodities "double" or "triple wrapped," yet will buy other articles of food where there is some risk of contamination, with the hope of some small saving.

Slaughter of Animals

The total number of animals slaughtered at the two private slaughterhouses during 1957 was :—

Oxen	....	....	....	....	....	1,561
Cows	....	....	....	....	....	206
Calves	....	....	....	....	....	223
Sheep	....	....	....	....	....	4,913
Pigs	....	....	....	....	....	1,173
Horses	....	....	....	....	....	Nil
Total						8,076

The increase of 337 over the figure for 1956 has been mainly in the number of sheep. The number of oxen has increased by almost the same figure as cows decreased (160 and 155 respectively).

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed and inspected	1,561	206	223	4,913	1,173
All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci : Whole carcasses condemned	3	4	2	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	450	90	—	76	129
Percentage of the number killed affected with diseases other than Tuberculosis and Cysticerci	29.02	45.63	0.89	1.54	10.99
Tuberculosis only : Whole carcasses condemned ...	2	—	—	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	46	19	—	—	35
Percentage of the number killed affected with tuberculosis	3.07	9.22	—	—	2.98
Cysticercosis : Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	4	1	—	—	—
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration ...	—	1	—	—	—
Generalised and totally condemned	—	—	—	—	—

Table showing Condemned Organs of Animals

	Heads	Tongues	Lungs	Hearts	Livers	Other Organs	TOTALS
Cattle :							
Tuberculosis	38	38	37	7	18	28	166
Abscess	1	1	1	—	128	3	134
Actinomycosis	10	10	—	—	—	—	20
Bacterial Necrosis	1	1	1	—	1	7	11
Cavernous Angioma	—	—	—	—	19	—	19
Cirrhosis	—	—	—	—	17	—	17
Cysticercosis	3	3	1	2	—	—	9
Distomum Hepaticum	—	—	3	—	307	—	310
Emaciation	3	3	3	3	3	21	36
Inflammation	2	2	44	6	4	42	100
Other abnormal conditions ...	3	3	9	5	9	20	49
	61	61	100	22	506	121	871
Calves :							
Tuberculosis	1	1	1	1	1	7	12
Ill-bleeding	1	1	1	1	1	7	12
	2	2	2	2	2	14	24
Sheep :							
Abscess	—	—	—	—	4	—	4
Distomum Hepaticum	—	—	—	—	20	—	20
Inflammation	—	—	3	—	—	6	9
Parasitic	—	—	3	—	33	—	36
Other abnormal conditions ...	—	—	1	—	4	—	5
	—	—	7	—	61	6	74
Pigs :							
Tuberculosis	33	33	—	—	—	—	66
Abscess	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Cirrhosis	—	—	—	—	42	—	42
Inflammation	—	—	19	5	3	28	55
Parasitic	—	—	—	—	41	—	41
Other abnormal conditions ...	—	—	6	—	1	6	13
	33	33	25	5	88	34	218

The weight of condemned meat and offal for the year 1957 was :

Beef in Carcase	....	....	....	3,968 lbs.
Beef NOT in carcase	....	....	....	2,160 „
Veal in carcase	....	....	....	131 „
Veal NOT in carcase	....	....	....	5 „
Mutton NOT in carcase	....	....	....	15 „
Pork NOT in carcase	....	....	....	298 „
Offal	....	....	....	7,761 „
				<hr/>
				14,338 lbs.
				<hr/>

or 6 tons 8 cwts. 2 lbs.

MERCHANDISE MARKS ACT, 1878-1953

The summary of inspections made shows a figure of 8 under the above heading, but it must be pointed out that this refers to specific instances where a retailer's attention was drawn to the requirements of the Act. A constant watch was kept on shops and stalls but, like many other aspects of public health work, this work cannot be tabulated as visits or inspections. The most common offences are those in respect of the marking of tomatoes and meat.

HOUSING

Clearance Areas

The figures submitted to the Minister in 1955 for Clearance proposals in High Wycombe are interesting when compared with those of the whole county. The county as a whole intended dealing with 4,426 houses as unfit properties or 3.7% of the inhabited houses. The percentage as applied to High Wycombe is 11.05%. The figures reveal that this Borough's figure of 1,408 houses is 31.8% of all the estimated unfit houses in the county, and the remaining three Boroughs with only 455 houses or 10% of the total. Also of interest is the fact that in a five-year programme for the Borough from 1931 to 1936 only 235 houses were demolished under the Housing Acts.

The programme for the Borough fell behind during 1956, but by the efforts of all departments concerned the programme was expedited.

Thirteen Clearance Areas were declared and in addition 16 houses were dealt with by negotiation, making a total of 242 unfit houses. In seven Areas involving 52 houses, no Public Inquiries were necessary, and in the case of one Area comprising 5 houses, a Hearing took the place of an Inquiry. One Inquiry on an Area of 41 houses was held and at the end of the year four others were pending. Compulsory Purchase Orders were made in respect of seven Areas, and 18 houses not considered unfit were included in

these Orders. 34 families were re-housed during the year and 64 houses were demolished. The total of visits and inspections made was 993.

It is inevitable that in a town where industrial premises have become very mixed with houses and where there is a congestion and lack of air space around buildings, Compulsory Purchase becomes the best way of dealing with many Areas. However, where possible, Clearance Areas were made, and the Town Clerk, with the Committee's approval, achieved much by negotiation.

RENT ACT, 1957

The following table sets out the work of the department during 1957 in connection with this new legislation :—

(1) Number of applications for certificates of disrepair	....	70
(2) Number of decisions not to issue certificates	....	3
(3) Number of decisions to issue certificates	....	59
(a) in respect of some but not all defects	....	32
(b) in respect of all defects	....	27
(4) Number of undertakings given by landlords to carry out repairs	....	18
(5) Number of undertakings refused by local authority	....	Nil
(6) Number of certificates issued	....	31

There were no applications for cancellation of certificates.

CLEAN AIR

Domestic Premises

As the provisions of the Clean Air Act relating to Smoke Control Areas were effective from the beginning of the year, an early start to apply them to an area within the Borough was made. Two areas were finally selected for survey—both council estates—Upper Micklefield and Upper Bowerdean. During the survey questionnaires were distributed to occupiers and were collected by hand in order that any difficulties could be explained or questions answered. The information received was tabulated and a full report setting out the advantages and disadvantages, the cost of conversions and the administrative details, was considered by the Health Committee. The Committee recommended that the Upper Micklefield Area comprising 350 houses should be declared as a Smoke Control Area, but on this being placed before the full Council the recommendation was referred back for further consideration.

Further discussions took place in Committee and other areas were considered without making decisions.

A new policy was then adopted, this being that new estates, whether Council or privately owned, should be declared as Smoke Control Areas. In this way, although no domestic areas were being rid of smoke, it meant that no further areas of domestic smoke could be created within the Borough. Four areas were immediately recommended and agreed by Council in October, these being as follows :—

Gomm's Wood, a Council Estate with 122 houses (existing estate but with approved appliances).

Deeds Grove, a Private Estate planned for 350 houses.

New Road Council Estate planned for 84 houses.

Castlefield Council Estate planned for 100 houses.

A further Estate known as Terriers Estate (Upper Bowerdean) planned for 120 houses was approved by Council in November.

All these Orders were submitted to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government for confirmation and to take effect from 1st September, 1958.

Industrial Premises

During the year efforts to induce industrialists to reduce smoke emission from factory premises were increased. The problems relating to the burning of wood waste were investigated by visits to factories in and around the London Area and installations designed especially for the burning of wood waste were inspected. This left no doubt that wood waste could be burned without causing excess smoke, provided proper furnaces and equipment were installed. The conversion of plant to burn other fuels was not regarded as the complete answer.

In order to help the woodworking industry the Public Works Committee agreed to receive sandings dust at the Corporation's tip without charge.

EXPLOSIVES ACT, 1875

The registration of premises where explosives, *e.g.* fireworks, etc., are stored was carried out as required under the above Act. Number of registrations for the period ended 30th September, 1957, was 109.

RAG FLOCK AND OTHER FILLING MATERIALS ACT, 1951

Statistics

Licences issued to manufacture	....	....	....	Nil
Licences issued to store Rag Flock for resale	....	....	....	6
Total number of registrations	....	....	....	125

			<i>No. of</i>	<i>Satisfactory</i>	<i>Not Satisfactory</i>
Cotton Felt	....	....	9	9	—
Coir Fibre	....	....	1	1	—
Kapok	....	....	1	1	—
Millpuffe	....	....	1	1	—
Rag Flock	....	....	5	5	—
Woollen Mixture Felt			6	6	—
			23	23	—

LEGAL PROCEEDINGS DURING 1957

Acts, Orders and Regulations under which Proceedings were instituted	Default of Offence	Result	Fines
Food & Drugs Act, 1955, Section 32	Sale of milk containing 16.9% added water	Conviction	Fined £25 Costs £9 16s.
Food & Drugs Act, 1955, Section 2	Cigarette in loaf of bread	Conviction	Fined £10 Costs £7 15s.
Public Health Act, 1936, Section 94	Non-compliance with Statutory Notice	Abatement Order, 42 days	Corporation Costs £4 4s. Court costs 10s. 6d.

GENERAL STATISTICS

Table showing number of inspections or visits made during the year :—

Butchers' Shops	....	....	....	....	....	49
Drainage	....	....	....	....	....	145
Entertainment Houses	....	....	....	....	....	4
Explosives Act	....	....	....	....	....	108
Factories	....	....	....	....	....	440
Fish Shops and Fried Fish Shops	....	....	....	....	....	16
Food Hygiene	....	....	....	....	....	448
Greengrocers	....	....	....	....	....	12
Grocers	....	....	....	....	....	68
House Let in Lodgings	....	....	....	....	....	1
Housing Acts	....	....	....	....	....	993
Ice Cream Premises	....	....	....	....	....	22
Infectious Diseases	....	....	....	....	....	69
Markets	....	....	....	....	....	17
Merchandise Marks Act	....	....	....	....	....	8
Milk Shops and Dairies	....	....	....	....	....	16
Miscellaneous Visits	....	....	....	....	....	201
Overcrowding	....	....	....	....	....	8
Outworkers	....	....	....	....	....	2
Pet Shops	....	....	....	....	....	2
Public Health Act (visits to premises)	....	....	....	....	....	739
Rag Flock	....	....	....	....	....	26
Rats and Mice (Inspectors' visits)	....	....	....	....	....	74
Rats and Mice (Rodent Operators' visits)	....	....	....	....	....	1,921
Sampling visits : Food and Drugs	....	....	....	....	....	160
,, ,, Ice Cream	....	....	....	....	....	15
,, ,, Milk, Bacteriological	....	....	....	....	....	165
,, ,, Water	....	....	....	....	....	41
Shops Act	....	....	....	....	....	330
Slaughterhouses (meat inspection)	....	....	....	....	....	864
Smoke Abatement	....	....	....	....	....	140
Stalls and Hawkers' Carts	....	....	....	....	....	570
Streams and Watercourses	11
Swimming Pool	15
Tents, Vans, Sheds	5
Verminous Premises	18
						<hr/> 7,723 <hr/>

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